

Central/Western Maine Workforce Development Board (CWMWDB)
Chief Elected Officials (CEO)
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2017

Attendees calling in: Sara McLaughlin (Fiscal Agent), Zakk Maher (Androscoggin), David Duguay (Oxford), Terry Brann (Franklin)
Attendees: Jeff Sneddon, Patsy Crocket & Bob Devlin (Kennebec)
Staff: Helen Crabtree
Quorum present: Yes

Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Z. Maher at 9:03am, and introductions were made among all CEOs and staff.

Approval of August 10, 2017 Minutes

Action Item:

Z. Maher presented for approval the August 10, 2017 meeting minutes; a motion was made by P. Crockett and seconded by T. Brann.
Discussion/questions: None
Vote by members present: approved
Abstain: 0
Objection: 0

Fiscal Report

S. McLaughlin presented the budget and mentioned the impact that withholding WIOA PY2017 funds is having on both the program and administration budgets. She will develop a budget forecast to determine how long total funding will be available based on required costs. A motion was made by D. Duguay and seconded by P. Crockett to place the fiscal report on file.

Action Item:

Discussion/questions: None
Vote by members present: approved
Abstain: 0
Objection: 0

WIOA Transition

A summary was given by J. Sneddon about the continuing transition from WIA to WIOA: a state-wide MOU with all our required partners is being finalized and we are in the process of obtaining signatures from partners (16).

J. Sneddon provided a comprehensive synopsis of the far-reaching impact in the State's decision to withhold and send back \$8 million in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds:

- The decision places the solvency of Local Boards and service providers at risk;
- Local Boards, through the service providers are unable to offer job training services for low-income adults, laid-off workers, and struggling young adults;
- Employers are correspondingly adversely affected, since the training being denied to these job seekers also deprives employers of skilled workers;
- Based on last year's figures, there is a probable result in over 2,200 job seekers statewide being denied workforce development and training services.

CWMWDB Activities

J. Sneddon reported on the ongoing workforce development activities:

- Status of the MOU with all our required partners as it relates to new regulations. We are in the process of obtaining signatures from partners state-wide.
- We are increasing employer engagement in CareerCenter occupational training programs. A way to facilitate employer partnerships is through Regional Program Advisory Groups (RPAG) which have been formed for the following industries: health care, IT and manufacturing. These groups will help identify issues and opportunities regarding the workforce for each specific industry.
- A new training program recently started (September 11th) in the Lewiston/Auburn region - “Manufacturing Technician” and is a partnership between Northeast Technical Institute, the CareerCenter and CWMWDB.

Regional Planning

Members discussed, noted and proposed the following:

- ✦ Manufacturing challenges: how to replace aging workforce and the need for funding to train and replace aging workforce; a solution is to qualify high school seniors to enter manufacturing through training; offset dwindling institutional knowledge; offer apprenticeship before aging out retire to help transfer institutional knowledge;
- ✦ High Schoolers: the lack of work-ready skills, there is a lack of precision measurement skills in math among the younger generation;
- ✦ New-Mainers: language skills pose a huge challenge as well as an understanding of the manufacturing work culture.

Other Business

A new Board member nomination was presented by J. Sneddon and was submitted to CWMWDB by Dr. Knapp, President of CMCC.

Action Item:

A Motion was made by P. Crocket for Michelle Hawley, Director of Workforce and Professional Development at CMCC, to be appointed to the Central/Western Maine Workforce Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by T. Brann.

Discussion/questions: None

Vote by members present: approved

Abstain: 0

Objection: 0

There was no other business to conduct and the meeting was adjourned at 10:50am.

Minutes submitted by Helen Crabtree